

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of	:	Attorney Docket No. 2005_1592A
Yoshiko TAKAYAMA et al.	:	Confirmation No. 1755
Serial No. 10/553,320	:	Group Art Unit 1627
Filed November 3, 2005	:	Examiner Gigi Georgiana Huang
AGENT FOR REPAIRING CORNEAL PERCEPTION	:	Mail Stop: RCE

RESPONSE FILED CONCURRENTLY WITH RCE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The following is in response to the final Office Action dated February 3, 2011, the time for responding thereto being extended for two months in accordance with the fee submitted herewith.

Applicants submit the following remarks in support of the patentability of the presently claimed invention over the disclosures of the references relied upon by the Examiner in rejecting the claims. Further and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of these remarks.

A Request for Continued Examination is submitted concurrently herewith.

Summary of Telephone Interview

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Huang for discussing the above-identified application with Applicants' representative on April 19, 2011.

During the interview, Applicants requested that the Examiner clarify her position regarding the obviousness rejection. The Examiner explained her position as follows. The Hellberg reference teaches the use of compounds that promote neuron regeneration or neurite outgrowth for the treatment of conditions resulting from injury to the corneal nerve. The McKerracher reference teaches that Rho kinase inhibitors are effective for stimulating neurite